

We are going to conquer this epidemic.

REPUBLICANS PAD THE PROFIT MARGINS OF DRUG COMPANIES IN FLAWED PRESCRIPTION DRUG LAW

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, there is no question where the loyalty of Washington Republicans rests when it comes to prescription drug coverage for America's seniors. Their loyalty rests in the boardrooms of the Nation's huge pharmaceutical companies.

One need only look to last Friday for proof. In pharmacies around the country, many seniors heard the bad news. Their drug purchases would not be covered under Medicare part D because they had reached the "donut hole." These seniors lost coverage because they had already spent \$2,250 on their prescriptions, and they won't qualify again until their expenses reach \$5,100 for the year.

I heard from my constituent, Pauline, who said: "I'm sure somewhere along the way the 'donut hole' phenomenon was described, but obviously was passed over in the tons of Medicare D explanations. All I know is that last month what I paid was \$20 and it now costs me \$96, and that was only on one prescription. What adds insult to injury is that we must now pay the premium, too, while we lose our benefits. Prior to Medicare part D, it was costing me approximately \$400 for all my prescriptions; so I am now faced with full freight, inflated pharmacy bills due to the 'donut hole.'"

Actually, Pauline will never get out of the donut hole. It is really a black hole for her.

So shame on Congress, Mr. Speaker, if it recesses before requiring the Secretary of HHS to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for seniors and persons with disabilities.

THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell just part of the Herculean and steadfast efforts, the story of the CBC to control HIV/AIDS and reverse its tragic toll in our communities.

I came here 10 years ago and cut my congressional teeth working with and learning from MAXINE WATERS and Lou Stokes as we created the Minority AIDS Initiative. In 1998, the Clinton administration responded to our call for a state of emergency with an investment of \$158 million, which grew to \$400 million.

Despite our repeated calls to action under this administration, funding has been stagnant; capacity-building in communities of color, the hardest hit, has been lost; and we have been bur-

dened by political and ideological policies that caused lives to be destroyed or lost. So today African Americans are more than 50 percent of new HIV and AIDS cases, and our death rate is almost three times that of whites.

We are again in crisis. We need a state of emergency for our health. Each and every CBC member has always and will continue to do their part here in our districts and, with BARBARA LEE, across the world. We call on Congress and the President to respond.

AIDS

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, 25 years after the start of the devastating global HIV/AIDS pandemic, this disease is still devastating black America. Among young people, among women, among men, African Americans are most at risk of getting infected with HIV and developing AIDS and dying of this disease. Enough is enough.

Over the last 5 years, this Republican-led Congress has done nothing to recognize this pandemic and the scope of this problem. We need to focus our efforts on the spread of HIV and AIDS in our prison system and provide routine but rigorous HIV testing, linked with treatment, to all incarcerated individuals, and support Congresswoman WATERS' H.R. 6038, the Stop AIDS in Prisons Act.

We need to pass my bill, H.R. 6083, the JUSTICE Act, to allow condoms, yes, condoms, in our prisons and to demand accountability in stopping the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among incarcerated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, this is a state of emergency. Let us declare it. We must declare it. We must declare resources to confront it. The entire Congress needs to support more funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative, beginning with a minimum of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative. Let us declare this state of emergency.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IGNORES LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION SPENDING BILL

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans want to recess the House at the end of this week, but we should not leave town when there is serious business that the Republican leadership has failed to complete.

Why won't the Republican leadership let this House vote on the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill? This bill was reported out of committee on June 20. Here we are, 3 months later, still waiting for the Republicans to bring this critical bill to the House floor.

Does the Republican leadership, the Republican majority in this House, be-

lieve that funding for our public schools, our students, financial aid, health care systems, senior citizens, workers, and our youngest children simply does not matter, isn't important, that it is somehow okay to let this bill just sit around?

This Republican majority is out of touch and, come November 7, hopefully will be out of power. Mr. Speaker, I am more than happy to stay in town another day or two to finish this bill to help our kids, to help our senior citizens, to help our workers.

And in light of the Republican leadership's failure to move an agenda to help the American people, I ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 5647 to the House floor for immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded on page 734 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

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A LITTLE TRUTH GOES A LONG WAY

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, are you impressed by these irresponsible and childish and petty partisan antics of the minority today? It is divisive, disgraceful, does a disservice to our body and to our Nation.

Now, I understand that it is that crazy political season, but a little truth will go a long way. Leadership on the other side has voted against the Deficit Reduction Act and responsible spending, has voted against pension reform and welfare reform, has voted against border protection and immigration reform, has voted against higher education reauthorization, has voted against the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act.

Mr. Speaker, the American people see through this charade, these political antics, and I call on my colleagues to respect each other, to respect the Congress, and to respect our Nation and to act responsibly and join us in making Americans safer and more prosperous.

THE DO-LESS-THAN-DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard about the do-nothing Congress of 1948 that met only 101 days. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that this Republican-led Congress will go down in history as the do-less-than-nothing Congress.

Today is only the 78th day that we have met for legislative business. And

yet the Republican leadership insists on recessing at the end of this week to allow extra time for campaigning. Democrats believe we should not adjourn this body until we address this needs of all Americans, not just major corporations and the wealthy few.

To do that, we must deal with the issue of the skyrocketing college tuition costs that are plaguing so many students and their families. Democrats are fighting to restore the \$12 million in student aid recently cut by the Republican Congress, and to finally expand the size of available Pell Grants that those on the other side of the aisle have been blocking for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, since Republicans in this body have no plans to address college affordability, before they head back to campaign, I ask for unanimous consent to bring up a revised Labor, Health and Human Services budget bill that ends the Republican raid on student aid.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

NO CONGRESSIONAL RECESS UNTIL ACTION IS TAKEN ON ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as the major oil companies know, it pays to have friends in high places. The Bush administration and this Republican-controlled Congress have an all-too-cozy relationship with Big Oil that has helped those companies rake in the largest profits in American history. The American people paid the price.

Throughout the summer, record high costs at the pump hit families hard. Now, as the winter months approach, these same working families know they may soon face soaring home heating bills. Yet House Republicans refuse to repeal the \$8 billion in tax breaks to their friends in Big Oil.

Democrats want to repeal these outrageous subsidies and use those funds to provide consumers with real relief and real investment in new fuel technologies and biofuels from America's heartland, including my home State of Missouri, and not the Middle East.

House Republicans seem dead set on standing with Big Oil instead of American consumers. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up a bill I am proud to cosponsor, H.R. 4479, which repeals the oil companies' subsidies and gives those breaks instead to consumers, small business and funds the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, may I make a parliamentary inquiry? Is that ruling tantamount to an objection to this?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is in the first instance an exercise of discretion in recognition. The gentleman was simply not recognized for the unanimous consent request under the previously announced guidelines for the exercise of discretion in recognition.

As recorded on page 734 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

HIV/AIDS IS WREAKING HAVOC ON AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES ACROSS OUR NATION

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, you have heard earlier today that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has wreaked havoc on the African American community across the Nation.

And that is also true for my own district in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where since 1983 over 50 percent of the diagnosed AIDS cases were among African Americans. And while these data are appalling and frightening, we must remember that this is entirely preventable.

We must spread the hope of preventing AIDS. So despite this terrible human tragedy, we must never yield to complacency and silence and ignorance, because complacency and silence and ignorance, of course, leads to death.

We must encourage people to get educated, to get tested, to get involved in the fight against AIDS. But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is this Congress's responsibility to fight this national epidemic by providing the resources for people to be involved in setting aside this pandemic. It is not enough to just say no to sex.

This commitment would involve reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act. It would involve increasing funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative. Mr. Speaker, we must never look the other way and say that nothing can be done. And I urge my colleagues to take action and to fund these critical initiatives.

INCREASE COLLEGE GRANTS SO MORE TEENS CAN ATTEND COLLEGE

(Mr. BOREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, at a time when America should be encouraging every high school student to attend college, the administration continues to drag its feet when it comes to making college more affordable.

While college costs at a 4-year public college have increased by 57 percent since 2001, the Pell Grant maximum has not been increased for 4 years straight. Investing in education must

be a priority in the United States if it is going to maintain its advantage over other countries in an increasing global economy.

Our education policy must reflect that nothing is more important to our long-term economic growth than an educated work force. We should not leave this week without making this commitment to students across the country. We should bring up and pass an improved Labor, HHS appropriations bill that expands the size and the availability of the Pell Grants.

THE CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA REFLECTS ITS VALUES

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk on this House floor about values. I would suggest that how we spend our time reveals our values in many ways. This Republican-controlled Congress was able to take the time to debate the fate of horses. They were able to take the time to provide \$290 billion in tax relief for 7,500 of the richest people in the country each year.

They were able to take the time to provide new tax breaks for oil companies. But there was no time, apparently, for providing comprehensive health care reform, and there was certainly no time, apparently, to provide an increase in the minimum wage, which has been frozen for 9 years.

The CEOs from your wealthiest corporations in this country earn more in 4 hours than a minimum wage worker earns in an entire year. And yet the Republican majority found the time to make life easier for the most well-off 1 percent of people in this country, but no time at all to help those who need it most. What kind of values does that represent?

REPEAL TAX BREAKS TO BIG OIL

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that Americans have paid record high prices at the gas pump this summer, the Bush administration and the Republican friends in this body have voted to give tax breaks to big oil companies.

At the same time, they refuse to move forward on policies to achieve energy independence and keep our Nation from relying so heavily on foreign oil. Now American families are facing a long winter of high home heating bills with no end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats strongly believe that this body should not adjourn until action is taken to address the energy concerns of all Americans. We support a comprehensive policy that will roll back the tax cuts for big oil companies and invest the savings into